

# the SIGHT CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind

1819 Canton Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43624  
419/241-1183



★ Designates membership in United Way

Volume 20, No. 2

November, 1983

## NAC Reviewers



**Janet Strauss, left, and Patricia Bussen were two of the four-member NAC review team that inspected everything at the Sight Center — including five extinguishers — last December.**

## Accreditation Is Renewed

A two-year re-accreditation was awarded the Sight Center in July by the National Accreditation Council, the standard-setting and accrediting body in work with the blind.

The announcement was welcomed by executive director Barry McEwen, who said accreditation assures the public that the Center's operations meet national standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability.

The accreditation process involved a comprehensive self-study of the Center by its staff and governing body, followed by an exhaustive on-site review by a four-member NAC team last December.

Strong agency progress in many areas was noted, but concern over the Center's relatively weak financial support base in sizeable sections of its 23-county service territory was given as one reason for a two-year re-accreditation, rather than the maximum of five.

The Sight Center is a member of the United Way of Greater Toledo, which includes Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa Counties, and of the Henry County United Way, which was formed last year, and draws much of its support in those counties from the United Way.

A long-range campaign to draw greater support from the other 19 counties has been under way for the last three years, Mr. McEwen said. He predicted that it will be several more years before a truly sound support base is established there.

Next year's budget has been pegged at \$750,600, with \$187,500 requested from UW/GT, and \$6,000 from Henry County United Way, leaving more than \$500,000 to be raised from other sources.

# From Concept to Reality: Center Observes 60 Years of Service

## OOA Award



**Dr. Timothy Kime, of Toledo, right, president of the United States Optometric Association, was among the guests when executive director Barry McEwen accepted the Ohio Optometric Association's award for distinguished service in sight preservation.**

## Ohio Optometrists Recognize Agency's Prevention of Blindness Program

Special recognition for its continuing campaign against blindness has been awarded the Sight Center by the Ohio Optometric Association.

The Association's distinguished service award for 1983 was presented to the agency in ceremonies at Springfield last May.

While the OOA's choice of the Sight Center over similar Ohio agencies was based on overall performance in a number of fields, special weight was given to the scope and success of its prevention of blindness program, Sandy Tanner, OOA staff liaison officer, said.

More than 22,000 people — double the Center's 1981 total — were screened in the program last year.

The total included 13,254 youngsters aged 6-14, plus 2,597 pre-schoolers, and 5,216 adults.

Among the children, 1,691 in the older group were referred to private eye doctors for investigation of possible amblyopia, strabismus, ptosis, stereopsis, myopia, astigmatism, poor color vision or poor depth perception.

Another 246 youngsters aged 3-5 received referrals for the same reasons, and 147 adults with suspected glaucoma were referred to private eye doctors.

Persons living in 20 of the 23 counties in the Sight Center's service territory were screened, plus many from states besides Ohio and Michigan.

## Lions Club Moves Office to Sight Center

The Toledo Host Lions Club has moved its office to the Sight Center.

Besides providing the agency with additional revenue in the form of rent, the move also facilitates closer liaison between the Lions and the agency,

executive director Barry McEwen pointed out.

The Lions Club has retained its own telephone number, 255-1725, said Mrs. Amy Heinicki, club secretary. Her office is on the Center's main floor.

The Sight Center is 60 years old. It was created in November, 1923, from the raw materials of inspiration and determination in the minds of men and women unalterably convinced that blind people have the same right to lead lives of independence and dignity as anyone else.

They also understood that an institution, with a stated purpose and an operational framework, was necessary to the achievement of the goal.

Formal enunciation of the developing agency's aims was not set forth in print until 1927, when it was legally incorporated as the Toledo Society for the Blind, a not-for-profit institution whose stated purpose was:

"... to further the interests of the blind and open to them all avenues to independence and self-support, through investigation, education, and recreation..."

That process is still going on.

This edition of the agency's official news publication is a fitting place to recognize the occasion of its diamond anniversary, but a full, detailed historical account giving due credit to all who have participated in the evolutionary process is not possible here.

Given the twin limitations of sketchy, conflicting or non-existent records for certain important periods over the past six decades, and the shortage of living participants whose memories could help fill in some of the gaps, perhaps it is not possible anywhere.

Even so, certain significant events, personalities and dates stand out, and are cited elsewhere in this publication.

A series of events and programs to mark this diamond anniversary have been scheduled for the next 12 months. Announcements will be made when appropriate.

A year-long drive to raise funds for capital improvements is also planned. The goal, in dollars, has not yet been established, but replacement of the building's roof alone is estimated at \$85,000. The original, laid in 1956, is leaking badly.

Better lighting, plus energy-saving improvements including Thermopane windows and insulation, are also needed.



Tax-Aided Services Fall Off

Services to disabled persons by tax-supported vocational rehabilitation agencies across the nation dropped sharply last year, continuing a downward trend from the high-water mark reached in the late '70's and early '80's.

Government researchers have identified a number of causes, including loss of Social Security dollars, a reduced but ongoing inflation rate that continues to cheapen what money remains available, and the priority and emphasis on providing services to the severely-disabled, for whom rehabilitation efforts are more costly.

As the accompanying tables show, the numbers involved are large:

REHABILITATION CASELOAD COMPARISON:

Caseload Measure	Fiscal Year		Percent Change: '82 vs. '81	All-Time High		Percent Change: '82 vs. High
	1982	1981		Fiscal Year	Number	
Total applicants	821,332	934,209	-12.1%	1975	1,204,262	-31.8%
New applicants	564,443	638,542	-11.6	1975	885,737	-36.3
Applicants on hand, end of year	232,245	257,610	- 9.8	1975	357,653	-35.1
Total active cases served	958,537	1,038,232	- 7.7	1975	1,244,338	-23.0
New active cases	333,439	373,310	-10.7	1975	534,491	-37.5
Rehabilitations	226,924	255,881	-11.3	1974	361,138	-37.2
Nonrehabilitations	142,575	157,682	- 9.6	1976	179,139	-20.4
Active cases on hand, end of year	589,038	624,669	- 5.7	1975	778,448	-24.3
Severe active cases served	571,542	600,727	- 4.9	1979	611,994	- 6.6
New severe active cases	200,601	224,309	-10.6	1979	226,287	-11.4
Severe rehabilitations	129,866	138,380	- 6.2	1979	143,375	- 9.4
Severe nonrehabilitations	90,567	95,462	- 5.1	1981	95,462	- 5.1
Severe active cases on hand, end of year	351,109	366,885	- 4.3	1979	381,078	- 7.9

Source: Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education

What makes this significant, from our point of view, is that our performance record at the Sight Center, in terms of numbers of people served and kinds of services provided, has risen dramatically over the same time span in every area but our sheltered workshop. And we managed to do it despite a forced reduction in staff at the end of 1981 when, to live within our income, it was necessary to eliminate five full-time and two part-time staff positions. So far, only one of those full-time positions has been fully restored; another has been partially restored, and one of the part-time positions has been restored at a lower cost level.

SIGHT CENTER SERVICE COMPARISONS:

Direct Services	1982	1975	Percent Change
New Referrals:			
Rehabilitation Teaching:	342	196	+ 74.5%
Orientation/Mobility:	140	110	+ 27.3
Talking Books:	152	88	+ 72.7
Sheltered Workshop	2,905	1,358	+ 113.9
Blind Employees:	40	44	- 10.0
Volunteer Services			
Volunteer Workers:	417	200	+ 108.5
Hours Served:	8,843	1,324	+ 567.9
Prevention of Blindness			
Eyeglasses Provided:	191	51	+ 274.5
Persons Screened:	22,066	500	+4,313.2

We think the public will find these comparisons as thought-provoking as we do, for they demonstrate clearly how much of the slack brought about by the decline in tax-supported services has been taken up by the Sight Center and other privately-funded, non-profit agencies.

Given the demands on the Federal government's tax resources, and the philosophy of the Reagan administration when it comes to dividing those resources up, this state of affairs is unlikely to change soon. And that intensifies a knotty problem.

Blindness, despite great progress in coping with certain forms of it, is on the increase, but the Sight Center (and, we suspect, other agencies similarly engaged) is stretched dangerously thin. Current staff cannot serve greater numbers of clients; the waiting lists are already long and are growing.

Volunteer services have been used to the maximum in bridging the gaps, but there is a practical limit to the size and scope of the volunteer programs this agency can realistically handle . . . and we have reached it.

There are other financial problems, but there seems little point in detailing them. If the needs of the community are to be met, additional revenue must be found. Your generous contributions have enabled us to come this far. Please do all you can to keep the campaign going.

William A. Marti  
President, Board of Trustees

New Member



Bruce Rumpf Joins Board of Trustees

Bruce H. Rumpf, president and owner of the Rumpf Corporation, Toledo, joined the Sight Center's Board of Trustees in late August.

His appointment brings the board's membership to 12.

Mr. Rumpf, 32, was born in Cincinnati but has lived most of his life in the Toledo area. He is a 1973 graduate of Ohio State University, with a bachelor of business administration degree.

The corporation he heads includes Rumpf Temporary Services, Rumpf Medical Services, and Rumpf Security Services.

He is a member and past president of the Toledo (Host) Lions Club, Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, Hope Lutheran Church, Delta Tau Delta fraternity (OSU), the National Association of Temporary Services, vice president of the Toledo Area Small Business Association, the president's council of the Toledo Museum of Art, Brandywine Country Club, and the board of directors of Small Business United, a lobbying body in Washington, D.C.

He and his wife, Kimberly Page, have two children, Tori Page, 2, and Benjamin Esser, 8 months.

Christmas Card Sale Under Way

Christmas cards are available again this year through the Sight Center.

Six new selections are featured, with choices open to buyers in religious, traditional holiday, and non-denominational or business motifs.

Prices are \$9, \$9.50, or \$10 for a box of 25 — the same as a year ago. A selection from past years is also available at reduced prices.

Cards may be ordered by calling the Sight Center at (419) 241-1183. They will be delivered anywhere in the United States or its overseas territories for \$1.50.

Buyers may also pick up their own cards at the Center, if they prefer. For an additional charge, buyers may have their own names, or company identification, imprinted.

The Christmas card program is handled almost entirely by volunteer workers. Last year, it netted the Center slightly over \$7,400, the largest return in memory.

Besides Ohio, cards were purchased last year by buyers in Arizona, California, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Puerto Rico.



Frank Liningter, veteran Sight Center volunteer and long-time member of the Maumee Lions Club, was honored as one of Lucas County's 10 outstanding senior citizens during Senior Citizens Day last May at the Lucas County Recreation Center.

A crocheted afghan entered by Florence Henry, wife of sheltered workshop supervisor Richard Henry, in the Pemberville, O., Fair in August was awarded a red ribbon for second prize. Mrs. Henry, a workshop employee, has been knitting and crocheting afghans, quilts and other items for more than 40 years. She estimated that her work has taken approximately 100 prizes at various levels of competition in that time.

Consideration is being given to establishment of a chess club for blind players at the Sight Center. Interested persons should contact Bryan Bein at 241-1183.

The Sight Center is in the process of building its own dark room. Donations of dark room equipment would be greatly appreciated.

Former client Betty Jo Payne, Temperance, Mich., was recently chosen top student for 1983 by the Hadley School for the Blind, Waineka, Ill., and awarded a certificate of achievement for academic excellence. She has completed eight courses of study there. Approximately 6,000 blind or deaf-blind students from all parts of the world study through the Hadley school each year.

Since September, she has been enrolled at Monroe (Mich.) Community College, studying to become a medical transcriptionist.

The 58th annual Lions Club Christmas party for members of the blind community will be held Dec. 8 at Gladieux I and II on Lasky Road, just west of Douglas Road, Toledo.

The Sight Center's Christmas Party for children will be held Sunday, Dec. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Although chronic glaucoma seldom afflicts children, it remains a leading cause of blindness in people over 40. Chronic glaucoma works slowly — almost imperceptibly — first destroying side and then central vision.



# Strong Leadership, Intelligent Planning, Resourcefulness Shaped Center's Growth

## Lions Involved From Outset

Lions Clubs were intimately involved in the birth and development of what became the Toledo Society for the Blind.

In 1923, even as sentiment was building elsewhere in the Toledo area for creation of an organization to serve the blind, Joseph Clunk, himself a blind man, interested members of the Downtown Toledo (Host) Lions Club in forming such an organization.

Of the original members of the agency's board of trustees, seven were Lions:

Edward E. Evans, Sr., president; William Comte, vice president; C. A. Baldwin, treasurer; August Frank, secretary; and members Oscar Beier, Holt Bullock and Arthur Ziegler.

This agency had barely come into being when, in a dramatic appearance during the 1925 Lions International Convention at Cedar Point, O., Helen Keller asked the Lions to become knights in the service of the blind and hearing-impaired.

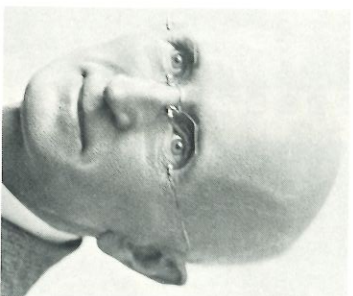
Their affirmative, enthusiastic and continuing response has brought them world-wide acclaim.

Various contributions and programs involving local Lions Clubs are mentioned in the minutes of TSB's board of trustee meetings, but often with no indication of when a particular program began. Some of the following dates are, therefore, approximate, and the sums of money cited are only a sampling of the support given over the years.

And while the bulk of the contributions outlined came from the Downtown Toledo (Host) Lions Club, many other contributions have come from Lions Clubs elsewhere in Ohio and Michigan, much of it in the form of cash or other tangible assets, some in the form of leadership, and much of it in quiet service. We thank them all.

\* \* \* In the early days, the Lions Club provided personal transportation for blind people, utilizing their own vehicles and serving as drivers; that service continues to this day. They have also provided money for cab fare for ladies attending Happy Times meetings the first Wednesday of each month, and for

## Presidents



**Edward E. Evans**



**John Goerlich**



**William A. Marti**

While every effort has been made to be accurate and complete in the historical data presented on these pages, some inconsistencies, inaccuracies and omissions are inevitable, since the information was taken from a variety of historical sources, some of which were incomplete or in conflict with each other.

We invite those readers who can supply the Sight Center with documented information that would amend, clarify or set straight any erroneous data to do so.

Special thanks are due Mrs. Nancy Burton for her many volunteer hours spent researching the minutes of the Sight Center's Board of Trustee meetings, upon which much of these data are based, and to board member Louis Zavac and volunteer Martha Ballard for additional research at Lucas County Probate Court.

Others who provided helpful information or photographs were Joel Wurl, of the University of Toledo's archives section; the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's local history department; The United Way of Greater Toledo; The Blade; the Library of Congress; members and former members of several Lions Clubs; and former Sight Center employees, volunteers, clients, and their families.

many years those who participated in Progressive Club.

Lions Clubs have also provided money for eye surgery, eyeglasses, and other medical attention for blind or visually impaired people. Lions were instrumental in helping establish and co-sponsor the Community Medical Eye Clinic at St. Vincent Hospital in conjunction with St. Vincent Hospital and the Sight Center.

Before the Sight Center obtained the property at 1819 Canton Street which is now its headquarters, Lions Club members had been busy raising funds — \$112,000 — to construct the building.

The \$112,000, unfortunately, was insufficient to complete the building; Lion William Comte, of Comte Construction which built the building, absorbed the balance of the cost himself.

One of the earliest and largest projects implemented by the Lions Club was the

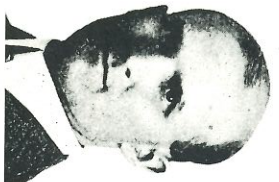
annual Christmas party for visually impaired. Next Dec. 8, the 58th consecutive Christmas party will be held, with the entire cost borne by the Lions, and service of food provided by the members and their families.

Lions Club monies supported the first few summer camps for the blind, paved the original parking lot (which is now the floor of the sheltered workshop), purchased a 1974 Plymouth van (still being used daily) for agency use, bought movie projectors and films on blindness, a refrigerator and other equipment for the Center's training apartment for blind students, food so the students could learn cooking and other independent living skills, sophisticated electronic devices and other aids, including countless white canes, for use by those in need of them.

No project has been too big for them,

(continued page 6)

## Executive Directors



**Will**

Photo  
Not  
Available

**Jamison**



**Parsons**



**Clark**



**Kirk**



**Norwood**



**McEwen**

Like a small but effective fighting force, the Sight Center has been gifted with strong leaders and intelligent planners who were able to delegate authority to responsible, efficient soldiers.

In difficult times, when resistance from the sighted community to change was strong, or when money was in short supply, the heads of the agency altered course, adapting to meeting changing conditions.

Their dedication, versatility and staying power have kept the agency moving. In 60 years, only three men have served as president of the Toledo Society for the Blind:

Edward E. Evans, Sr., 1927-57.  
John Goerlich, 1957-77.

William A. Marti, 1977 to present.

Only seven persons have held the top administrative post:

Dr. Harry S. Will, Nov. 1923 - Feb. 1924.

Mrs. Grace Jamison, 1924-25.

Mrs. A. Estelle Parsons, 1925 - Oct. 1949.

Mrs. Linda Clark, Jan. 1950 - Jan. 1958.

Lyle Kirk, Jan. 1958 - Jan. 1972.

Donald G. Norwood, Jan. 1972 - Jan. 1978.

Barry A. McEwen, Jan. 1978 to present.

While the goal of these individuals was the same, each brought unique strengths and interests to bear on the task at hand.

Mr. Evans' leadership and contributions were great; they have, however, been chronicled elsewhere many times, and an assessment of Mr. Marti's tenure is premature. But, the impact of John Goerlich's leadership on the Sight Center for 20 years is evident everywhere.

He is better known as the founder of AP Parts Corporation, but a great deal of his free time, leadership and personal fortune have been invested in the Toledo Society for the Blind and its clients.

Shortly after being elected a member of its board of trustees, he journeyed to New York City and Chicago to observe firsthand the operation of those cities' agencies for the blind.

He returned brimming with ideas for changes here that have been put into effect over the years, because John Goerlich is a doer as well as a thinker.

He was the driving force that converted the sheltered workshop to a modern, industrially-oriented, production-line operation, a move that greatly increased local employment opportunities for blind workers.

He also arranged the workshop's long-standing contract with AP Parts (at competitive rates) for packaging of exhaust system accessories.

Over the life of that contract, hundreds of blind employees have packaged an estimated 2.7 billion components, earning millions of dollars in the process.

(continued next page)



Founding Trustees of the Toledo Society for the Blind

Offices Held	Years of Membership
Edward E. Evans, President, 1927-57	1927-57
Claire V. Skinner, Vice President, 1927-38	1927-38
Katherine Geddes, Treasurer, 1927-38	1927-43
Robert F. Nachtrieb, Secretary, 1927-41	1927-41
Miss Jessie Welles, Executive Committee, 1932-38, Vice President, 1938-43	1927-43
Rev. Karl J. Alter	1927-28
Frank B. Anderson	1927-28
Wendell Johnson	1927-29
Rev. Stephen K. Mahon	1927-28
Overton J. Reamy	1927-57
Frank G. Saxton	1927-31
Dr. Walter H. Snyder	1927-38

Able Leaders Guided Growth:

(from preceding page)  
There were years when it was the only contract the workshop could handle.

It was he who suggested that the Sight Center seek accreditation, an idea that bore fruit in 1978 when the Sight Center was accredited for the first time. It has remained accredited since.

It was he who arranged and paid for private legal counsel to represent a blind Toledan who had been stripped of his workman's compensation benefits — awarded when he was blinded in an industrial explosion — because the man found new employment after rehabilitation.

The litigation lasted three years, with the Ohio Supreme Court ruling that industrial awards made for permanent and total disabilities are permanent, and cannot be voided or reduced when a person, through rehabilitation, learns a new trade and earns new income.

No one, including himself, knows how many times John Goerlich has donned Santa Claus suits to help make Christmas parties for blind children a success.

No one knows, either, how many guided tours of the Sight Center he has conducted for anyone interested in learning about it.

When he was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the board recognized many of his services in a 10-point proclamation that commended him for:

Serving as a member of the committee which planned and developed the present Sight Center at 1819 Canton, Toledo;

Initiating the agency's annual Christmas card program as a fund-raiser;

Initiating the glossy, semi-annual newsletter in 1964;

Arranging for the purchase of property at 813 Ontario St., Toledo, that was used as a rehabilitation residence for blind men for a number of years;

Obtaining the donation of several vehicles for Sight Center use;

Taking a leadership role in various remodeling efforts of the Sight Center. And the list could go on.

But Mr. Goerlich's philanthropy has not been limited to the Sight Center. Though he was not formally educated, he is a graduate of countless correspondence courses and has made a quiet crusade of helping qualified, talented young people receive training in the professions of their choice; among them were businessmen, physicians, and ministers.

"... of those I helped," he once said, "only one has failed me. I think that's a pretty good record."

And although it has received minimal publicity, the Goerlich Family Foundation, which includes his wife of 62 years, Selma, and the families of his daughters, Mrs. Selma Putman and Mrs. Sandra Alexander, has been generous in support of many local charities besides the Sight Center.

Nothing said here is meant to belittle the contributions of the many other people who have served the blind community.

Hard work, relatively low pay — or no pay — and scant recognition for their sacrifices have been the reward for most connected with the Toledo Society for the Blind, volunteers as well as employees.

But John Goerlich is 85 years old, and has passed the reins of command to a younger generation who, in his own words, "are doing a better job of taking care of the needs of the blind than I could."

"I was a promoter, a money-raiser," he remarked recently. "The Sight Center badly needs someone who can raise money now."

And he added, "I wouldn't do one thing different if I had it all to do over again."

Acknowledgements

Dr. Will's photo courtesy of The University of Toledo Archives (UT Bulletin, 1920).  
Photos of Edward Evans and Linda Clark courtesy of Toledo Blade.

TOLEDO SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>
Edward E. Evans..... 1926-1957	Robert F. Nachtrieb..... 1927-1941
John Goerlich ..... 1957-1977	William Comte ..... 1941-1943
William A. Marti .... 1977-present	August Frank ..... 1943-1955
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>LOUIS ZAVAC</b>
Ms. Claire V. Skinner ... 1927-1938	Louis Zavac ..... 1981-present
Miss Jessie Welles..... 1938-1943	
William Comte ..... 1943-1967	
Walter Harrough..... 1967-1968	
William A. Marti ..... 1968-1979	
Thomas R. Day..... 1979-present	

TRUSTEES

A. E. Whittenburg ..... 1928-29	Carl F. Weissenberger ..... 1957-69
Sol Edelstein ..... 1928-43	Donald L. Dresser ..... 1957-67
William Comte ..... 1929-64	Cedric Wilson ..... 1958-63
Rev. Harold P. Chicore ..... 1929	Judge Edward Norris..... 1958-61
W. Carl Battis ..... 1930	Dr. Robert Kiess ..... 1961-present
Frank Moling ..... 1931-43	Louis D. Paine ..... 1961-80
Holt D. Bullock ..... 1931-71	Walter Harrough..... 1956-67
Walter J. Hurley ..... 1933-45	Richard Vining ..... 1965-80
C. A. Baldwin..... 1933-50	Lyle Kirk ..... 1972-77
August Frank ..... 1933-55	Carolyn Mezaros ..... 1967-79
Rev. M. J. Doyle..... 1935-57	Frank Pletz ..... 1967-81
Dr. Sam Patterson ..... 1939-54	Martin Eker ..... 1969-76
Oscar Beier ..... 1943-50	William A. Marti ..... 1968-present
Art Ziegler..... 1943-56	Charles Trauger ..... 1971-present
Mrs. Augusta Leatheman... 1944-55	Lillian Thomas ..... 1970
Donald Hagemeister..... 1946-54	Rev. Robert Culp ..... 1974-76
Walter Cline ..... 1951-81	Harold Garner ..... 1977
Mrs. Bernard Baker ..... 1954-63	Louis Zavac ..... 1977-present
Franklin Schroeder..... 1954-present	Harry Kessler ..... 1978-present
John Goerlich ..... 1954-present	Robert Oberhouse..... 1978-present
Thomas R. Day..... 1955-present	Robert Y. Murray..... 1978-present
Orville Beemer ..... 1954-56	Margaret Wensel..... 1981-present
Dr. Floyd Frost..... 1954-59	Bruce H. Rumpf ..... 1983-present
Mrs. Richard Heymann, Jr..... 1956	

Bequests Vital to Agency

The following list includes the names of those persons known to have set aside all or part of their estates to perpetuate the work of the Sight Center in its 60-year history. The names are shown in approximate order the bequests were received.

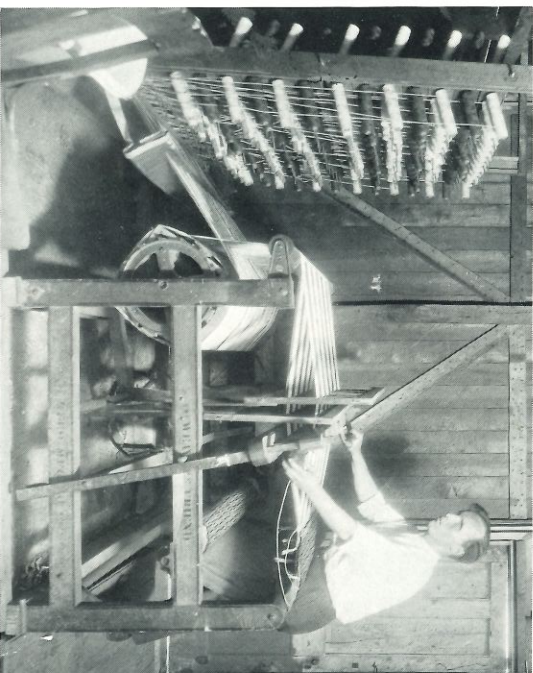
Edward D. Libbey	Minnie F. Walton	George Keilholtz
Thomas Walbridge	Ruth F. Yerzey	Tom Kaplan
Jernsha Mulhollen	Ralph W. Perkins	Esther Boos
Mrs. Morrison Young	Collins Estate	Mary Louise McCosh
Jerry Bingham	William Bretsch	Florence Dunsmore
Mrs. Clarence Brown	Catherine Frudiger	George Haverstock
Mrs. John Claus	Joseph Berdan	Marie Schmassman
Mrs. Noah Swayne	Staggemeier Estate	Ethel Walton
Mrs. Ida M. Horton	Sophia R. Refior	Grace Sheldon
Mrs. W. S. Walbridge	Clyde Condit	Marie F. G. McDonald
Sol Edelstein	Anna Pardee	Mabelle R. Brown
William Yeslin	Bessie D. Hubbard	Jessie Hunt
Mrs. Melita J. Van Keurin	Irving Gambit	Wade W. Fenton
David J. Marleau	Jesse B. Miller	Ray Kirtle
Urschel Estate	Winifred W. Blank	William S. Cooke
Caroline Williams	Emma R. Jockel	Catherine Jankowski
Nellie Basch	Mary Mae Prescott	Ida Down
Peter Wesley James	Charlotte Seaner	Georgie McAfee
Swayne Estate	William Comte	Martha R. Felt
Green Estate	Dorcas Beebe Kruse	Gerrude E. Binzer
Blanche E. Hughes	Grace N. Sherman	Ernestine U. Winzeler
Mercalle Estate	Edna E. Querschke	Forest M. Joslin
Ruth F. Shank	Harriet L. Aller	Clarence Hickok
Sayfang Estate	Donald Wolfe	Harold D. Smith
Daisy S. Hickok	Henry Kramer	Kathryn M. Holmes



# SCENES FROM YESTERYEAR



**Mobility, circa 1925:** Casper Bihn, left, of Stony Ridge, blows a whistle to summon the traffic officer at a busy downtown Toledo intersection. At right, the officer has left his post to escort Mr. Bihn across the street. Nowadays, blind travelers cross such streets on their own with a white cane or guide dog.



**This forerunner to today's modern, production-oriented workshops shows blind operator Charles Twenty at work on *The Weaver's Friend*.**



**Right:** This young job-seeker found a place in the Sight Center's window to demonstrate her clerical skill to a curious crowd of citizens.



**There's a great deal of meaningful activity going on in this 1925 picture of sight-saving classes at Lincoln Elementary School, Toledo. Some of the girls are rake knitting; the boy at front center is doing basket-weaving; two girls are typing. A piano and phonograph, also used in teaching, are shown at rear, and one boy is reading a large-print book.**

Like point and counterpoint, a dual theme persists in the history of the fight by blind people for full membership in society: the demand for independence, based jointly on the ability to travel freely, and the need for meaningful, productive employment. These photographs, taken from Sight Center files dating to 1925, illustrate some of the forms that fight has taken.



**Everyone who travelled through downtown Toledo in the 1940's through the 60's came to recognize Tom Whiakker, a fiercely independent man who sold newspapers from his stand at Superior and Madison Streets. Above, Mr. Whiakker and Lord Byron, his Boxer guide dog.**



**Caning of chairs by hand is an art passed on by the late Arthur Swearengen to his son, John, a current workshop employee. The picture was taken May 1, 1958.**





Organized labor has always been a friend to the Sight Center. When the agency's former headquarters at 718 Michigan St. needed a new coat of paint back in the late '40's or early '50's, these 38 men from Local 7, A.F. of L., in cooperation with Toledo Chapter, Painting and Decorating Contractors, and the Toledo Paint, Lacquer, & Varnish Association, pitched in to do the job.



Jeff Zavac was 12 when this 1966 photo was taken of him reading the Scout motto from a four-volume Scout Handbook in braille. But music was his abiding passion: after marching and playing saxophone in the St. John High School band, he earned his college band letter at the University of Cincinnati. Jeff now lives in Miami, Fla., where he has his own radio program on station WLRN-FM. He is also employed by the Miami board of education to teach music to senior citizens, and occasionally plays local engagements with small combos in the Miami area. That's John Goerlich, left, and Frank Keating, Jeff's former scoutmaster at Troop 146, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Toledo, looking on.

(Photo by Robert Packo, Toledo)

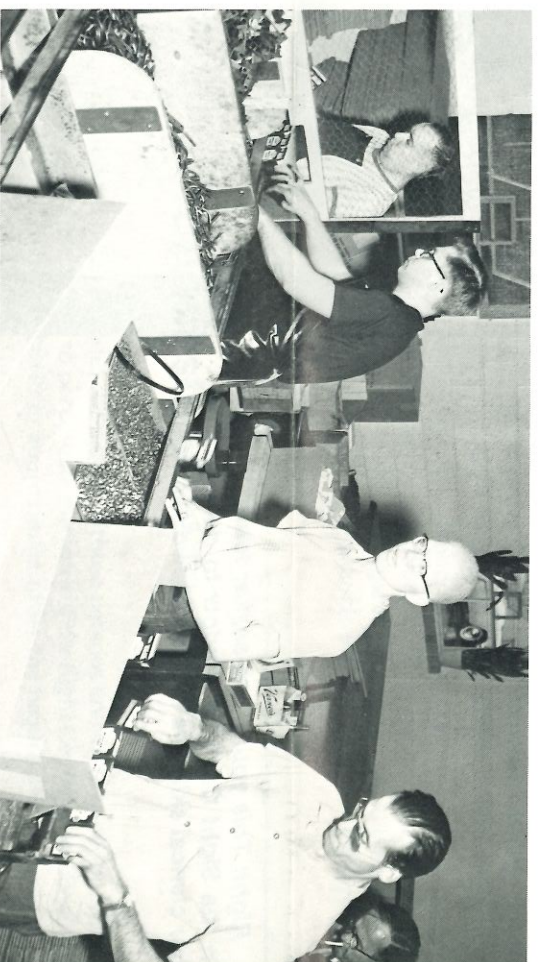


Screening of youngsters for amblyopia, strabismus and other abnormal eye conditions was just getting started locally when little Polly Haarbauer, left, who'd be full-grown by now, underwent the procedure in 1966. In the 17 years since, an estimated 48,100 school-age children have been provided with similar screenings by the Sight Center.



The jolly gentleman at left is John Goerlich, toggled out as Santa Claus at a long-ago Sight Center Christmas party. The name of the lad on his knee is not known, but that's believed to be John Pitzen at right rear, wearing a bow tie and a big smile, and Sue Ash at bottom right. Identity of the others, including the elf at right, is unknown.

(Photo by Robert Packo, Toledo)



Production-line packaging of exhaust system accessories in 1958 featured, from left, Julius Charney, Larry Witt, Cliff Warren, and Earl Montler. Identity of the workman behind Mr. Montler is unknown.



Radios are unnecessary when you can create your own music, as Carroll Howard did one pleasant afternoon in 1959 at Camp Yakita. That's Addie Pointer at left, with her late husband, Tony. Identity of the others in the photo is not known.



## John Swarengen Rated Workshop's Top Employee

John Swarengen, whose personal association with the Sight Center reaches back more than 20 years and whose family ties here go back even further, has been named the sheltered workshop's first-ever "Blind Worker of the Year".

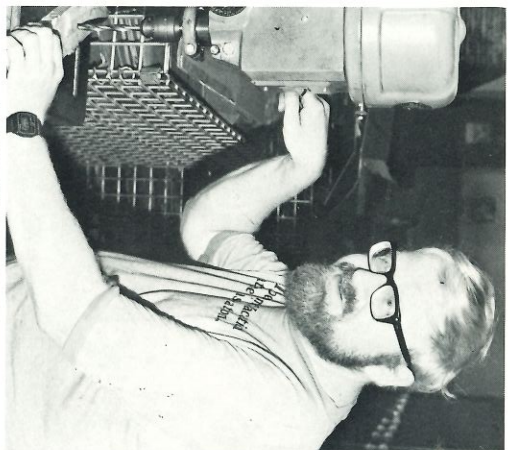
The award was presented at the monthly employees' meeting Aug. 4 by executive director Barry McEwen.

Earlier this year, all workshop employees were rated by a three-member committee in 16 areas ranging from work habits to education, attitude toward others, adaptability, appearance, attendance, leadership and the degree to which they have overcome their sight handicaps.

The competition is sponsored annually by National Industries for the Blind, which the Sight Center joined in 1982.

John Swarengen is the sixth member of his immediate family to work at the Sight Center. His late father, Arthur E. Swarengen, was first.

Others were his sisters, Marge, Helen, and Agnes — the latter a current employee — and brother, Henry.



**John Swarengen**

His wife, the former Denise Homler, is also a former employee here.

At one time or other, Mr. Swarengen has handled every job available to employees of the sheltered workshop, including production work and fork-lift operation, and several outside the workshop, including general building maintenance. He also does chair-caning and antique restoration.

He holds an associate degree in criminology from the University of Toledo's Community and Technical College.

## Pediatric Ophthalmology Is Lecture Topic

Dr. Norman C. Johnson, Jr., assistant professor of ophthalmology at Medical College of Ohio, will discuss pediatric ophthalmology at the Lyle Kirk Memorial Lecture, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at MCO.

Dr. Johnson is a graduate of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., and New York Medical College. He served his internship at Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center, where he was also resident in ophthalmology and served as chief administrative resident his final year.

He also served a one-year post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Children's Hospital National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.



**Dr. Johnson**

## Handicapped Youngsters Romp at BGSU Saturday Clinic

Most youngsters learn to run, swim, bowl, ice skate, ride a bicycle, use a trampoline or perform dozens of other acts involving motor coordination as a matter of course.

They see others doing those things; they try themselves, — probably fall down a few times — but they learn.

When you have a physical handicap the others don't have, however, it's not so easy.

So, 12 to 14 times a year, upwards of 40 handicapped children gather at the Saturday Clinic at Bowling Green State University's school of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation to improve their motor skills while developing greater self-confidence and self-awareness.

The clinic was established in 1975 for blind and visually impaired children, but has been expanded over the years to include young people with other kinds of handicaps.

They come from as far away as Columbus and Fremont, O., and as nearby as a few blocks off campus.

The program is coordinated by Dolores Black, associate professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, who volunteers her services.

To make it work, she has the help of 50 student volunteers who spend two hours or more at each session working with the youngsters.

Some of the referrals to the program have come through the Sight Center, but many of the parents who bring children just heard of the clinic "by word of mouth," Professor Black said.

The parents are encouraged to participate in all of the activities along with their children, she said — and many do.

A number of problems exist. Obtaining proper equipment is one of the larger ones.

Scooters, tricycles, sleds and snow saucers are needed right now for the youngsters with mobility handicaps to practice on, she explained.

More beepers are needed — boxes,

## Product Specialist Added to Staff

An aggressive approach to strengthening the sheltered workshop was adopted in May with employment of John Wagener as sales/product development specialist.

In this newly-created position, Mr. Wagener will concentrate on obtaining more diversified industrial and commercial accounts for the workshop, which has suffered from heavy reliance on a single, long-standing contract related to the automobile aftermarket.

Prior to the joining the Center, he was purchasing agent for Zehr and Company, Pettisville. The Wauseon resident holds a bachelor of science degree in agricultural engineering from Ohio State University.

Mr. Wagener, a 15-year member of the Wauseon Lions Club, was installed as governor of District 13-A for Ohio Lions Clubs in June.

balls, or other containers holding electronic equipment that gives an audible signal blind children can home in on to determine direction and gauge distances.

The Telephone Pioneers of America donate their time and skills putting the beepers together and repairing them when they are broken, but demand chronically outstrips the supply.

Also in short supply are "tactile" things — sandpaper, cotton baring, various fabrics, building blocks, pegs, dowels, different kinds of wood, glass, metal and the like — that can be used to teach differences in texture, density, hardness, elasticity and other physical properties.

Despite the problems, "Spirits are usually high at our sessions," Professor Black said.

The student volunteers come from many academic disciplines, she said — geology, pre-medicine, physical therapy, special education, and others.

Some receive academic credit, while others participate simply for personal enrichment.

Additional children would be welcome in the program, Professor Black said, but she asked that parents of others interested in enrolling youngsters contact her first at the university by calling (419) 372-2395.

## Patricia Knell Gains Certification

Patricia Knell, coordinator of the Sight Center's prevention of blindness program, has been certified as professionally and academically qualified to administer a vision screening program by the National Association of Vision Program Consultants.

The certification procedure, begun last year, aims to insure that uniform, high-quality standards are maintained in local vision screening programs.

At the time of the announcement in June, Ms. Knell was the 26th person in the United States to have received NAVPC certification.

### The Toledo Society For The Blind

The Sight Center Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Toledo Society for the Blind, a United Way member agency in Lucas, Wood, Ottawa and Henry Counties, Ohio.

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*Carroll Maas, left, development engineer for National Industries for the Blind, was at the Sight Center in September to cooperate with John Wagener on the engineering for a federal contract bid. The Center's workshop became a member of NIB last year.*



## Memorials

*A permanent record is made of memorial contributions and other gifts to the Sight Center. Memorials are promptly acknowledged in accordance with the wishes of the contributor. The following is a list of memorials, bequests, and gifts in honor of others received by the Center from April 1 through Sept. 30, 1983.*

### APRIL

Francis Wheeler, by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Camp, and Bernice Spencer.  
Leona Bonkowski, by Mr. and Mrs. Rod Henning.  
Reg Ryder, by Mr. and Mrs. Al McEwen.  
William Miller, by William A. Marti, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest W. England, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Murray, Mr. and Mrs. William Clemens, and Alex N. Novak.  
Robert E. Krauss, by Florence E. Rowell, Mrs. Richard L. Foltz, Marilyn Cochran Page, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Krauss, Glen and June Henry, and the Robert J. Byrne Family.  
Rose Mollenkopf, by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Black and seven others.  
Helen Osterman, by Marilyn Cochran Page.  
Leroy Tucker, by Al McEwen, and Agnes McEwen.

### MAY

Helen F. Osterman, by Osterman Jewelers employees.  
Robert Krauss, by Virginia Keller.  
Mrs. Frances Shea, by Mrs. K. W. Chubner.  
Edouard David, by Mr. and Mrs. David Bonde.  
Russell Baldwin, by Velma Bogart.  
Charles Ritter, by Corrine Keller.  
Mrs. Nellie Dunderman, by William A. Marti.

### JUNE

Donald Auxter, by John and Joan Roehn.  
John Schaub, by Barry McEwen.  
Mrs. Violet Mensing, by Ruth K. Everhard, Mr. and Mrs. Olen Osmun.  
Mrs. Marjorie Taylor, by Randolph A. Pence.  
Edward Everhard, by Ruth Forrester, Elfrida H. Coen, Margaret H. Seeman, Mrs. Norman O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Baldwin, Charles and Jayne Roullier, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Hebbeler, The Toledo Club, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Niehenke, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lauffer, Mrs. Benjamin Hausman, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Crawford, Edward Walters, Libbey-Owens-Ford Company, Maureen I. Casey, Kenneth A. Lowery, Mrs. C. R. Bundt.  
Warren Reaser, by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Whitacre, Mrs. Warren Stow and two others, Tom Ziemis and two others.  
Mrs. Melbourne Harris, by Mrs. Benjamin Hausman.  
Evelyn J. Durney, by Rita J. Berz.

### JULY

Leora Harris, by Lewis and Maxine Basch.  
Father of John Wagener, by Margaret Smith.  
Warren Reaser, by I. R. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Rice and family, Miss Maxine M. Cosgray, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Smith, Helene C. Sanzenbacher.  
Esther Ritenhour, by Mrs. Richard K. Beck.  
Edward Everhard, by Wednesday Nooners Club.  
Alvin O. Freimark, by J. T. Perry.  
William Penn, by Barry A. McEwen, Madge Levinson.  
Mrs. Helen Howard, by Marilyn C. Page.  
Roland Diemer, by R. W. Diemer, Sr.  
Adam Bartell, by Alfred and Dorothy Meyers.  
Paul E. Pursel, by John and Dorothy Wagener.

### AUGUST

Robert Krauss, by Ken and Ruth Meyerholz.  
Mrs. Velma A. Louth, by Alice Louth Boyd.  
Grace Geyer, by Ronnie Kastning, Louise Martin, Mary Camp, Katie Schiever, and Mrs. Norman Soular.

### SEPTEMBER

Joseph Glew, by Al and Wanda McEwen, and by Barry A. McEwen.  
Robert W. Brown, by Jerry and Peg Draheim.  
John Linn, by Robert E. Siegel.  
Alfrida Meyer, by Juanita Carstensen.  
Edward Goldmann, by Mary Frances Klein.  
Lewis (Bill) Schneider, by Agnes McEwen, and Al and Wanda McEwen.  
Christine Beach, by Bill Beach and family, K. C. Beach and family, Paul Beach and family, Mrs. Betsy Horkey and family.

## In Honor of

### APRIL

Birthday of Jane Ratliff, by James E. Luginbuhl.

### MAY

80th Birthday of Elva Neeper, by Gladys Frazier.

### JULY

Retirement of Msgr. Lawrence Mossing, by Palma Duganiero and Richard Wisniewski.

Anniversary of Lewis and Maxine Basch, by the Kaplan Foundation.

### SEPTEMBER

Birthday of Mrs. William Goldman, by Mary Frances Klein.

## Bequests

Harold D. Smith estate.  
Kathryn M. Holmes estate.  
Wade W. Fenton estate.

## Deep Thought



*The opening round found Richard Hollins, left, pitted against Don Walhout, of Rockford, Ill., in a three-hour match, with Mr. Walhout triumphing. The monitor at center is Denny Vassari, vice-president of the Findlay Chess Club, who kept written records of each player's moves and assisted as needed. Such monitors observed every match.*

## Three From Toledo Compete In Blind Chess Championships

Three Toledo men were among a group of 20 from around the nation who competed in the U.S. Blind Chess Championships at Findlay, O., Aug. 19-21.

Two of them, Richard Hollins and Bryan Belin, are employed in the Sight Center's sheltered workshop.

Chester Franklin, Mr. Belin's half-brother, also competed.

Playing on short notice and under difficult conditions, Mr. Belin and Mr. Franklin each won two of five games. Mr. Hollins lost his five, but vowed, "I'll improve on that next time".

Play opened at 8 p.m. Aug. 19 in the dining room at the Fort Findlay Motor Inn with the temperature hovering around 90° F due to malfunctioning air conditioning equipment.

Lighting was also a factor for Mr. Belin and Mr. Franklin, both of whom have retinitis pigmentosa. Their first games were delayed nearly an hour until maintenance workers could jury-rig high-intensity lamps at their tables.

Joe Kennedy, 17, of Fort Wayne, Ind., took first place, sweeping five consecutive games.

Dr. James Slagle, a former champion from Temple Hills, Md., and James Riley, Brooklyn, N.Y., tied for second place with four wins and one loss apiece.

The event was co-sponsored by the Findlay Chess Club and the Findlay Lions Club, and sanctioned by the U.S. Chess Federation. The Findlay Lions Club conducted glaucoma screenings throughout the weekend.

## Tax Facts

Until 1983, only taxpayers who itemized their deductions could reap tax benefits from their charitable contributions at income tax-filing time.

That's no longer true.

Non-itemizers were able to deduct up to \$25 of their 1982 contributions on this year's return. The ceiling will remain the same for the 1983 tax year, according to a spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service in Cleveland, then be liberalized each year through 1986, at which time 100 per cent of such contributions may be deducted, with no limit other than the general limitation of 50 per cent of adjusted gross income.

Receipts must be kept, the IRS spokesman said.

So if you've never made a contribution to the Sight Center, now is a good time to consider doing so, because this important change in the federal income tax reporting laws benefits all philanthropic givers, not just those who itemize.

Your tax-deductible gift will help to insure that your blind and visually-impaired neighbors will continue to receive the highest quality services to meet their needs.

## Center Closed Thanksgiving Week

The Sight Center will be closed to normal business Thanksgiving week, Nov. 21-25, for inventory and maintenance purposes. Sales of Christmas cards will continue as usual, however.